Application No. 09/975,403 Docket No. F-187

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application. In the Office Action mailed on March 31, 2004, the Examiner required election under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to one of the groups of claims consisting of 1-7 and 15 or 8-14.

In response to this restriction, Applicant elects to prosecute the Group I claims, consisting of claims 1-7 and 15. However, Applicant requests that Group I and Group II be examined together because the search would be co-extensive, and there would be no additional burden on the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Cumming

Reg. No. 46,650 Attorney of Record

Telephone (203) 924-3934

PITNEY BOWES INC. Intellectual Property and Technology Law Department 35 Waterview Drive P.O. Box 3000 Shelton, CT 06484-8000